



Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee Meeting

November 4, 2011

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Why Tolling Is A Critical Option in Transportation Planning Today

- Diminishing resources, increased needs are driving states to seek new funding tools
- Rapid growth is driving demand to deliver critical projects faster
- Growing public acceptance of user fees when the benefit to the user is clear





Advantages of Tolling in North Carolina

Tolling is an appropriate tool when applied in the right circumstances

- Expedites project delivery
- Mitigates congestion
- Expands opportunities for increased private sector partnering
- Frees traditional transportation dollars
- Creates dedicated revenue streams to upgrade & maintain tolled facilities





Tolling Considerations

Tolling decisions must take into account potential impacts such as:

- How much of the project cost can or will be covered by anticipated tolls?
- Could possible diversion affect the function of the surrounding transportation network?
- Will benefits be limited to only those who can afford the toll?





Community Support Critical

- Toll projects MUST have the support of the surrounding communities and the potential users
- Deliberate community involvement/engagement:
 - Helps prevent misinformation
 - Educates public regarding purpose of project/tolls
 - Informs potential users of benefits
- Without community support, ridership will not reach projections and the project will not be a financial success





Current Tolling Authority

Federal Programs

- Interstate Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot
- Value Pricing Pilot
- Express Lanes Demonstration
- HOV Conversion to HOT

State Programs

- Statutorily defined projects
- Interstates, with federal approval





I-77 HOT Lanes and I-95 Corridor

- Research first, best decisions follow
- Studies examining the entire corridor
- NCDOT/Local communities investing extensive time to data collection
- Public engagement strong
- Data/community desires will direct outcomes





I-77 Project Update

- Charlotte Area Fast Lanes Study - July 2009
- I-77 HOT Lane Feasibility Study - Spring 2010
- Preliminary Financial Feasibility - Summer 2011
- Initial NEPA Planning and Design - Summer 2012
- Local Government Outreach - Fall 2011 - Summer 2012
- Begin procurement process - Early 2012
- Public Outreach - Spring 2012
- Complete procurement process - End of 2012





I-95 Study

- Examining deficiencies & needs of I-95 corridor
- Creating a master plan for corridor improvements
- Will streamline development of future construction
- Determine a feasible funding strategy





I-95 Project Timeline

- Project Kickoff October 2009
- 1st round of Public Workshops August 2010
- Research and Analysis begins August 2010
- Research concluded, 2nd round of public workshops January/Feb. 2012
- Study complete May 2012

- NEXT Steps: Begin process for individual construction projects





Data-Driven Decisions

Projects should first be prioritized

- All projects, regardless of funding stream, should be prioritized using data-driven, transparent process
- Once prioritized, data-driven criteria can be used to evaluate funding/ options
- If data does NOT indicate tolling is the appropriate financing option, tolling should not be applied
 - Even if project must wait for more traditional funding





How do we get there?

- NCDOT currently using data-driven process to prioritize projects
- Additional research is needed to create effective tolling/financing evaluation criteria that is:
 - Data-driven
 - Transparent
 - Recognizes community support
- General Assembly action will be needed to implement





Potential Barriers to Tolling Success

- Public acceptance
- Toll enforcement
- Interoperability of tolling equipment
- Local Use/Impacts
- Reinvestment of toll revenue





Other Applications

Tolling has opportunity to provide additional services

- Parking garages
- Transit
- Other retail





Summary

- Tolling is an appropriate tool when applied in the right circumstances
- Opportunities exist for more data-driven utilization of tolling
- Need to begin conversation about the application of tolling in delivering critical infrastructure

